(c) whether the Railway Administration requires this land for the Railway Terminal or for any other project;

(d) if so, whether the slum dwellers of this colny are being shifted to any alternative site ; and

(e) what are the exact details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. This colony is known as "Shivkripa Chawl".

(b) There are five structures consisting of 62 units. The total area under occupation is 11,160 square feet.

(c) The land is required for undertaking the phase II works connected with the proposed Kurla Railway Terminal.

(d) They will be required to be shifted before the phase II works are taken up.

(e) The details are being worked out in consultation with the State Government.

Rail accidents

1908. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of major and minor rail accidents during the last six months;

(b) whether these accidents were more in comparison to the corresponding period of last year, and if so, what are the details in this regard ;

(c) what is the estimated loss to the Railways on these accidents during the last six months; and

(d) what is the amount recovered from the Insurance companies on this account?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) There were 283 consequential train accidents, including 195 to goods trains, during the period November 1988—April 1989. These comprised 18 collisions, 231 derailments, 32 accidents at level crossings and 2 cases of fire in trains.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The loss on account of these accidents has been estimated to be of the order of Rs. 751.55 lakhs.

(d) As per existing practice, government assets are not insured in the country and, as such, the question of recovery from insurance companies does not arise.

Suburban passengers in Bombay

1909. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of suburban passengers who travelled in Bombay on Railways (i) Western Railway and (i) Central Railway during the last three years ;

(b) what is the number of Ticket Collectors in Bombay on (i) Western Railway and (ii) Central Railway during the said period ; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to increase the number of Ticket Collectors.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Number of passengers who travelled in suburban trains :

(Figures in thousands)

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Central Railway . .	685,555	718,439	773,776
Western Railway . .	698,214	735,867	763,238
TOTAL : . . .	1,383,769	1,454,306	1,537,014

(b) and (c) Number of Ticket Collectors in Bombay area on Western Railway was 431 and on Central Railway 244. On account of resource constraints and high staff cost it has not been possible to make any substantial addition of Ticket Collectors.

Contraband articles prohibited on railway journey

1910. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the contraband articles which passengers are prohibited to carry on railway journey;

(b) whether Government have given due and proper publicity about such articles;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that innocent passengers are being harassed due to ignorance; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Contraband articles not accepted for conveyance by Railways unless covered by a permit or licence issued by the competent authority are listed in Chapter XIV of the Coaching Tariff No. 23, Part-I (Vol. I) published by the Indian Railway Conference Association and available for sale to the public It is available at all stations for reference.

(c) No such complaint has come to the notice of the Railways.

(d) Does not arise.

Switch over to diesel instead of electricity in the Railways

1911. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has asked Railways to switch over to diesel instead of electricity;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the reaction of Railways thereto; and

(c) what would be the effect of this advice on electrification process of Railways ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY of RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.